RESOLUTION No. 33

Global Control of African Swine Fever

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The epidemiological characteristics of African swine fever (ASF) and the current spread of the disease in domestic and wild pig populations pose a global threat to the industrialised and small-scale pig sector that together provide a key source of animal protein for food security and support livelihoods of farmers and stakeholders in many OIE Member Countries,

2. The spread of ASF is having negative impacts on animal health and welfare internationally, resulting in socio-economic impacts on livelihoods, national food security and for international markets and trade, and therefore has significant potential to hinder the coordinated efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty worldwide under the Sustainable Development Goals,

3. Control of ASF is feasible but unlikely to be successful and sustainable unless the efforts are part of a coordinated regional and global approach, and embedded into supra-national frameworks that consider the diverse socio-cultural, geographical, political, linguistic and economic needs of each region, through engagement with a broad range of international, regional and national agencies,

4. The lack of an effective vaccine and the existence of knowledge gaps in several critical areas, including the epidemiology of ASF in wild pigs and the role of ticks, are impediments to the control of ASF that need to be addressed through coordinated research and development programmes,

5. While pig meat and pig commodities are extensively traded posing a potential risk for the spread of ASF, the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provides the harmonised international standards through which zoosanitary risks can be mitigated, including through zoning, compartmentalisation and application of commodity-based trade measures.

6. The implementation of OIE standards in relation to ASF risk management, including prevention and preparedness, can be supported through developing specific guidance on application of generic approaches, in particular for risk analysis, zoning and compartmentalisation.

7. A mechanism to facilitate the involvement of key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to improve understanding of the complex value chains of the pig industry, and the relationship such value chains have with national biosecurity systems, and promote inter-sectoral collaboration at national, regional and global levels is essential for the control of ASF,

8. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is an effective framework to fight against transboundary animal diseases, since it empowers regional alliances by providing guidelines, direction and coordination among members and partners,

9. Establishment of regional Standing Groups of Experts on ASF (SGEs-ASF) under the umbrella of GF-TADs, promotes regular exchange of information and best practices among risk managers and international and national experts with a view to coordinate disease control policies and build science-based national control strategies.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. ASF control be considered a very high priority by Member Countries, regardless of their current status for ASF, as a result of the disease's significant impact on animal health and welfare, economies, rural development, social and political behaviour, and the current situation heightening panzootic risks for all countries;

2. Member Countries consider ASF as a disease that requires risk management by development and refinement of national control programmes, including preparedness measures for contingency planning, prevention, early detection, rapid response and compensation policies to support industry recovery, which would be enhanced by regular risk analysis and coordination with the control activities for other priority diseases already in place;

3. Member Countries recognise that risk communication is crucial to effectively address high risk practices and strengthen biosecurity measures in the national pig sector and concerning the wild pig population. Risk pathways and practices should be identified through risk assessment, and addressed by enhancing cooperation and coordination among the relevant private and public stakeholders;

4. Member Countries maintain transparency and trust with trading partners through timely and comprehensive disease reporting to the OIE to inform risk managers in protecting ASF free countries and zones and to enable better monitoring of the progress of ASF control programmes in endemic areas;

5. Member Countries that are trading pigs and pig commodities with countries or zones affected by ASF fully implement relevant OIE standards to ensure safe international trade and mitigate the risk of ASF incursion, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade;

6. Member Countries with trade in pigs and pig commodities consider the potential impact of an ASF incursion, and manage risks to business continuity within their preparedness plans making use of the OIE standards in relation to zoning, compartmentalisation and commodity-based trade that can be recognised by trading partners within certification arrangements;

7. Member Countries should take all practical steps to prevent the spread of disease between countries through illegal practices such as the carriage of contraband meat, meat products and live animals during travel and migration;

8. Member Countries make the best use of the possibilities offered by the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway to advocate national governments to improve Veterinary Services and support national surveillance and control programmes, the facilitation of trade activities as well as the prevention of disease introduction in free countries;

9. A global initiative for the control of ASF be launched using the GF-TADs mechanism to develop, improve and harmonise national, regional and global partnership and coordination to address ASF at the source, enhance prevention and preparedness, minimise adverse impacts on animal health and welfare, international trade, and social wellbeing;

10. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO, takes into account regional specificities to identify and define the guiding principles and key pillars required for the successful global control of ASF in compliance with the relevant OIE standards and guidelines;

11. The OIE and FAO through the GF-TADs coordinating mechanism, support the establishment of regional SGEs and strengthening of expert networks at national, regional and global levels, and provide policy and technical support based on the latest scientific evidence to their Members Countries for the elaboration and implementation of ASF control programmes;

12. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO, establishes and maintains an ASF Reference Laboratory network, including experts from and beyond the OIE Reference Laboratories, to support global control of ASF by improving the quality and validation of laboratory tests provided by international and national reference laboratories and building up local capability in support of regional control programmes;

13. The OIE develops specific guidelines for the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation in support of OIE Members seeking to establish and maintain a swine population or subpopulation free from ASF within their territories for the purposes of international trade and disease prevention or control; existing experiences and best practices should be taken into consideration;

14. The OIE and FAO work with development partners to achieve agreement on the value and merits of investment for global control of ASF and facilitate access to financing for their Member Countries to implement recommended measures for preparedness, prevention, detection and control;

15. The OIE, FAO and the Member Countries support research alliances that will generate scientific knowledge using interdisciplinary approaches and tools to contribute to the successful control of ASF, including development of safe and efficient vaccines, reliable diagnostic tests, surveillance strategies, epidemiological studies, socio-economic studies, application of appropriate standards for humane killing of animals for disease control purposes, disposal of animal and their products, and decontamination methods.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019
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